National Infrastructure Planning Temple Quay House

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Email: A428.Blackcat@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Your Ref:

All Interested Parties Our Ref: TR010044

Date: 09 December 2021

Dear Sir / Madam

The Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 (3) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8(3) and Rule 17

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvement scheme

Amendment to Examination Timetable, Procedural Decisions and Request for Further Information

1. Amendment to Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) has amended the Examination Timetable under Rule 8(3) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, to include an additional deadline. The new **Deadline 7, Thursday 6 January 2022**, has been created to seek clarification on the issues raised by the owners and occupiers of Keen Screen Services [AS-018] [AS-019], request information on related matters from relevant parties, and other matters.

The amended Examination Timetable is in **Annex A** of this letter. The Examination Timetable has been amended from item 26 onwards. Any information previously requested by the ExA for submission at Deadline 7, including relevant responses to Post Hearing Actions, should be submitted at **Deadline 8, Friday 14 January 2022**.

2. Status in the Examination of the owners and occupiers of Keen Screen Services, Mr and Mrs Chamberlain

The owners of Keen Screen Services, Mr and Mrs Chamberlain, are identified in the Book of Reference by name as having an interest in the plots 1/38a, 1/39a and 1/39b [REP4-010] over which Compulsory Acquisition (CA) is sought in the draft Development Consent Order. On the basis of their recent submissions [AS-018] [AS-019], and due to an error with the postal address for Mr and Mrs Chamberlain, the ExA is of the view that Mr and Mrs Chamberlain may not have received postal

communication relating to the Examination. On the basis of this submission, and the evidence presented by the Applicant at the second CA Hearings (CAH2) on Thursday 2 December 2021 [EV-085] [EV-086], regarding their interest, the ExA has decided that Mr and Mrs Chamberlain, should be treated as if they were an Affected Person for the purposes of the Examination of the Proposed Development. This will ensure that they receive all correspondence regarding CA of their land.

Also on the basis of their recent submissions [AS-018] [AS-019], and due to the error with the postal address, the ExA considers that Mr and Mrs Chamberlain may not have received notification from the Applicant of acceptance of the application in accordance with Section 56(2)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Furthermore, there is a likelihood that they fall within one of the categories set out in Section 102B of PA2008. It therefore appears to the ExA that Mr and Mrs Chamberlain, are likely to be able to formally apply for Interested Party (IP) status.

IPs have a special status in the examination of applications for development consent. For more information please see the <u>Planning Inspectorate's FAQ document 'What is my status in the Examination?'</u>. In consideration of the specific circumstances that arise in this case and bearing in mind our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998, the ExA has also decided that it is appropriate to treat Mr and Mrs Chamberlain as if they were IPs in advance of receiving a formal request in accordance with Section 102A. This will ensure that they receive all correspondence regarding examination.

3. Mr and Mrs Chamberlain's participation in the Examination

In consideration of the ExA's decisions to treat Mr and Mrs Chamberlain as if they were an Affected Person and an IP, the ExA has further decided to give them an opportunity to request a CA Hearing under Section 92 of the PA2008 and request an Open Floor Hearing under Section 93 of the PA2008.

Other Affected Persons and Interested Parties involved in this Examination have had an opportunity to request a CA Hearing and an Open Floor Hearing¹, and the ExA does not intend to accept requests from anyone else.

Mr and Mrs Chamberlain, should you wish to request a CA Hearing and/ or an Open Floor Hearing you must do so by **Deadline 7, Thursday 6 January 2022**. The PA2008 establishes a principally written process for the Examination of applications for Development Consent Orders. Representations made in writing carry equal weight to oral representations at all stages of the process.

For information about the Application, please see the <u>project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website</u>.

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¹ In the Rule 6 letter issued on Friday 9 July 2021 [PD-005], Affected Persons and Interested Parties were notified of the deadline to request a CA Hearing and an Open Floor Hearing. The deadline to receive requests for Hearings was Procedural Deadline A, Tuesday 31 August 2021. Consequently, on Friday 20 August 2021 the ExA issued a notification to hold CA Hearing 1 on Wednesday 22 September 2021. As no requests were received to hold an Open Floor Hearing, these were not scheduled. However, the ExA had previously held an Open Floor Hearing on Thursday 19 August 2021.

4. Public Sector Equality Duty and Human Rights

In conducting the examination, the ExA has due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) with respect to people with protected characteristics under Section 149(7) of the Equality Act 2010. Furthermore, with reference to the Human Rights Act 1998, and in particular Article 1 of the First Protocol and Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the ExA will need to consider the effects of the Proposed Development on these qualified rights.

With respect to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain, the ExA intends to explore the effect of the Proposed Development and the proposed CA of their land on a number of matters. Recognising that responses to these questions would include personal and sensitive information and information that reveals specific circumstances and needs of individuals, the ExA is requesting further information from relevant parties under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, from specific Interested Parties.

5. Request for further information

ExA's request for further information set out in the table below with questions addressed to specific named parties. The deadline for receipt of the information requested in this letter is **Deadline 7, Thursday 6 January 2022** as per the amended Examination Timetable in **Annex A** of this letter. Other Interested Parties wishing to comment on information submitted in response to this request may do so by Deadline 8, Friday 14 January 2022.

Please be aware that this letter and any response(s) received about it will be published to the Planning Inspectorate's website and entered into the Examination of the Application. The responses when received will be redacted in line with <u>PINS Advice Note 8.4</u> and related rationale applied at the discretion of the ExA.

R17.1.1.	Engagement and participation so far	
Applicant Bedford Borough Council and its relevant social support agency	1. List and provide evidence for the engagement so far, such as by phone, email, letter or face-to-face, between Mr and Mrs Chamberlain, the Applicant, BBC and its relevant social support agency in relation to the Proposed Development.	
Mr and Mrs Chamberlain	 Did you receive any of the following documents via the post or email? You can view information about each by clicking on the weblink? A section 56 Notice about the acceptance of the Application for Examination A rule 6 letter, outlining various key procedural matters and invite to a meeting in August A rule 8 letter confirming the timetable and other procedural matters related to the Examination 	

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	 Have you recieved any other communications about the Examination process? If so, please provide more detail. At any stage of the process, has anyone acted on your behalf, such as a friend, relative, solicitor or property agent? Would you like to appoint someone to represent you or speak on your behalf?
R17.1.2.	PSED and Human Rights
Applicant Bedford Borough Council and its relevant social support agency	 Applicant, BBC and agencies, are you aware, and if so how did you conclude, that Mr and Mrs Chamberlain may have protected characteristics under Section 4 and Section 149(7) of the Equality Act 2010? Applicant, BBC and agencies, provide further information about the protected characteristics of Mr and Mrs Chamberlain, in order to test the effects of the Proposed Development, the adequacy of the proposed measures and proportionality assessment. Applicant, BBC and agencies, explain whether the effects of the Proposed Development on Mr and Mrs Chamberlain and their business would interfere with their human rights, specifically Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property) and Article 8 (respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights. Applicant, if there would be an interference in these rights, explain how you have concluded that such interference is justified, including with appropriate reference to legislation and caselaw. The EQIA states [APP-245, Page 23] "Ongoing engagement will be undertaken with all relevant parties and will continue to be inclusive of any specific requirements of those involved. This includes where tenants may need specific reasonable adjustments to enable them to fully participate in engagement activities due to their protected characteristics." Applicant list all instances where you made, or attempted to make contact with Mr and Mrs Chamberlain. Provide details and summarise any reasonable adjustments requested or made to facilitate their engagement. BBC, its agencies and Mr and Mrs Chamberlain may wish to comment. (You may provide a coordinated response to this question and question R17.1.1.1.)

Mr and Mrs Chamberlain	 The Equality Act 2010 lists various 'protected characteristics' which we as the Examining Authority must take into account if applicable to you. It would be helpful to know if you consider any of these characteristics apply to you in relation to the effect of the Proposed Development? If so, why. Age (for example, being elderly) Gender reassignment Being pregnant or on maternity leave Disability Race including colour, nationality, ethic origin or national origin Religion or belief Sex Sexual orientation 		
R17.1.3.	Reasonable alternatives to CA		
Applicant	1. Applicant, provide further justification in line with CA guidance that for the plots 1/38a, 1/39a and 1/39b [REP4-010] all reasonable alternatives to CA, including modifications to the scheme, have been explored.		
Mr and Mrs Chamberlain	2. Has the Applicant (National Highways, previously known as Highways England) previously communicated with you regarding the purchase of your property? If so, can you provide further detail, including any dates, locations of discussions, attendees and matters discussed? We are unable to discuss with you any matters regarding the compensation offered for your property.		
R17.1.4.	Effects of the Proposed Development		
Mr and Mrs Chamberlain	 If you wish, you may want to read some information available on the Planning Inspectorate website and look over the material on the project webpage. Guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land A428 Black to Caxton Gibbet Do you live at this property? If so, is this your only home? If so, do you have alternative accommodation if compulsory acquisition of your property was authorised? Is the property your business? If so, is this your only source of income? Provide details and evidence. Do children under the age of 18 live at this property with you? Are there other people living at this property that would be affected? Are there other businesses operating at this property that would be affected? 		

	5. In future how would you like the Examining Authority to communicate with you, via post or email? If these options are not suitable then please let the Case Team member know when they telephone you, and we will take your requirements into consideration.
Applicant Bedford Borough Council and its relevant social support agency	6. You may provide your understanding of the above questions.

In light of the evidence received so far [AS-018] [AS-019], the comments made at CAH2 [EV-085] [EV-086], and in compliance with its duties under the Equality Act 2010, the Examining Authority via the Case Team at the Planning Inspectorate will provide additional support to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain to participate in the Examination of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement Scheme. In the first instance, to aide understanding the ExA has extracted the questions directed at Mr and Mrs Chamberlain to **Annex B**. Additionally, a member of the case team will telephone the Mr and Mrs Chamberlain to explain the matters contained in this letter and annexes.

The deadline for receipt of the information requested in this letter is **Deadline 7**, **Thursday 6 January 2022** as per the amended Examination Timetable in **Annex A** of this letter.

If you have any queries on this matter, please contact Emre' Williams (Case Manager) via the details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Menaka Sahai

Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority

Enclosed

Annex A: Amended Examination Timetable

Annex B: Questions to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain

Annex C: Procedural Decision tracker

ANNEX A: Amended Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) has amended the Examination Timetable under Rule 8(3) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, to include an additional deadline. The new Deadline 7 has been added on Thursday 6 January 2022, in **item 26**.

Please note:

- 1. The time for submission of requested documents is 23:59 on the relevant deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.
- 2. All information received will be published on the <u>project webpage of the</u> National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable.
- 3. We will aim to publish a draft agenda for each Hearing on the project webpage at least five working days in advance of the Hearing date. The actual agenda on the day of each hearing is subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Report on the Implications for European Sites

Where the Applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the DCO application, the ExA may decide to issue a Report on the Implication for European Sites (RIES) during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State. The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of the Habitats Regulations¹ and/ or Regulation 28 of the Offshore Marine Regulations.

23.	Deadline 6 (D6) for receipt by the ExA of:	Tuesday 14 December
	 Post-Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case as requested by ExA (relevant only if the Hearings are held) Comments on any other information and submissions received at D5 	2021
	 Updates Updated Statements of Common Ground Applicant's updated Statement of Commonality Applicant's updated dDCO Applicant's updated Explanatory Memorandum Applicant's updated schedule of changes to dDCO 	

¹ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

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	 Applicant's updated CA Schedule Any other information requested by the ExA 	
24.	 Publication by the ExA of: The Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required) 	Friday 17 December 2021
25.	Publication by the ExA of:Third Written Questions (WQ3) (if required)	Wednesday 22 December 2021
26.	 Deadline 7 (D7) for receipt by the ExA of: Responses from relevant parties to the further information requested by the ExA 	Thursday 6 January 2022
27.	 Responses to the ExA's WQ3 (if WQ3 is issued) Comments on the RIES (if RIES is published) Comments on updated Statements of Common Ground and Statement of Commonality Comments on Applicant's updated dDCO, Explanatory Memorandum and Schedule of changes to the dDCO Comments on Applicant's updated CA Schedule Comments on any other information and submissions received at D6 and D7 Any other information requested by the ExA 	Friday 14 January 2022
28.	Publication by the ExA of: The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO	Friday 14 January 2022
29.	 Procedural Deadline E for receipt by the ExA of: Notification of wish to participate in Compulsory Acquisition Hearing Tuesday 8 February with brief summary of issues intended to raise (only if Hearing notification is issued) Notification of wish to participate in Issue Specific Hearings Tuesday 8 February with brief summary of issues intended to raise (only if Hearing notification is issued) 	Tuesday 25 January 2022

30.	 Deadline 9 (D9) for receipt by the ExA of: Comments on responses to ExA's WQ3 (if WQ3 is issued) Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO Comments on any other information and submissions received at D7 Any other information requested by the ExA 	Tuesday 25 January 2022
31.	 Date reserved for (if any are required)²: Issue Specific Hearings Compulsory Acquisition Hearing Open Floor Hearing 	Tuesday 8 February 2022
32.	 Post-Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case as requested by ExA (relevant only if the Hearings are held) Comments on any other information and submissions received at D8 Final Updates from the Applicant Final Statements of Common Ground Final Statement of Commonality Final Guide to the Application Final dDCO in the Statutory Instrument (SI) template with the SI template validation report Final Explanatory Memorandum Final Schedule of changes to dDCO Final CA Schedule Final updated Book of Reference Any other information requested by the ExA 	Tuesday 15 February 2022
33.	Close of Examination by the ExA: The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting	Friday 18 February 2022

 $^{\rm 2}$ If the ExA decides to hold these Hearings, the notification will be issued well in advance.

Annex B Questions to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain

In light of the evidence received so far [AS-018] [AS-019], the comments made at CAH2 [EV-085] [EV-086], and in compliance with its duties under the Equality Act 2010, the Examining Authority via the Case Team at the Planning Inspectorate will provide additional support to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain to participate in the Examination of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement Scheme. In the first instance, to aide understanding the Examining Authority has extracted the questions directed at Mr and Mrs Chamberlain to this Annex B. Additionally, a member of the Case Team will telephone Mr and Mrs Chamberlain to explain the matters contained in this letter and annexes.

The Examining Authority has regard to both the letters submitted by Mr and Mrs Chamberlain to the Examination dated, 29 November 2021 and 1 December 2021. We request you to provide further information and confirmation on the matters below by **Deadline 7, Thursday 6 January 2022**. The Examination closes on Friday 18 February 2022, after which the Examining Authority will make a recommendation to Government on the Proposed Development. Therefore, and given the limited time remaining, it is important that we fully understand your situation. You can email your responses to A428.Blackcat@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or ask the Case Team.

Please provide evidence where possible to support your responses. Please be aware that your response will be published to the Planning Inspectorate's website and entered into the Examination of the Application. However, all personal sensitive information will be redacted before publishing.

If you wish, you may want to read some information available on the Planning Inspectorate website and look over the material on the project webpage.

- Guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land
- A428 Black to Caxton Gibbet
- 1. Did you receive any of the following documents via the post or email? You can view information about each by clicking on the weblink:
 - A section 56 Notice about the acceptance of the Application for Examination
 - A rule 6 letter inviting you to a meeting in August and other matters
 - A rule 8 letter confirming the Examination Timetable and other procedural matters
- 2. Have you received any other communications about the Examination process? If so, please provide more detail.
- 3. At any stage of the process, has anyone acted on your behalf, such as a friend, relative, solicitor or property agent? Would you like to appoint someone to represent you or speak on your behalf?

- 4. The Equality Act 2010 lists various 'protected characteristics' which we as the Examining Authority must take into account if applicable to you. It would be helpful to know if you consider any of these characteristics apply to you in relation to the effect of the Proposed Development and your participation in the Examination? If so, why.
 - Age (for example, being elderly)
 - Gender reassignment
 - Being pregnant or on maternity leave
 - Disability
 - Race including colour, nationality, ethic origin or national origin
 - · Religion or belief
 - Sex
 - Sexual orientation
- 5. Has the Applicant (National Highways, previously known as Highways England) previously communicated with you regarding the purchase of your property? If so, can you provide further detail, including any dates, locations of discussions, attendees and matters discussed? We are unable to discuss with you any matters regarding the compensation offered for your property.
- 6. Do you live at this property? If so, is this your only home? If so, do you have alternative accommodation if compulsory acquisition of your property was authorised?
- 7. Is the property your business? If so, is this your only source of income? Provide details and evidence.
- 8. Do children under the age of 18 live at this property with you? Would they be affected? If so, how?
- 9. Are there other people living at this property that would be affected? Are there other businesses operating at this property that would be affected?
- 10.If the Examining Authority have further questions we may contact you again in writing. In addition to making written submissions, you also have the right to be heard at a public meeting called a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing or an Open Floor Hearing. Do you wish to be heard at one or both of these? If so, the case team can provide further details. Please note written submissions carry as much weight as oral submissions.

11.In future how would you like the Examining Authority to communicate with you, via post or email? If these options are not suitable then please let the Case Team member know when they telephone you, and we will take your requirements into consideration.

ANNEX C: ExA's Procedural Decisions Tracker

The ExA has made a number of Procedural Decisions under Section 89(3) of the Planning Act 2008, which are recorded in the Procedural Decisions Tracker. Decisions are numbered in order of the date on which they were made.

√	Procedural Decision remains applicable
X	Procedural Decision has been cancelled or superseded

Proce	edural Decision	Date Issued	Status	Notes
1.	Request for comments on Relevant Representations by 31 August 2021	02/07/2021	V	Rule 9/17 Letter
2.	Request for Statements of Common Ground between the Applicant and specified parties by 31 August 2021	02/07/2021	V	Rule 9/17 Letter
3.	Request for LIRs from Host Authorities by 31 August 2021	02/07/2021	X	Superseded by PD 21 in Rule 8 letter
4.	Request for specified 1:2500 scale plans with OS details	02/07/2021	V	Rule 9/17 Letter
5.	Request for Low-resolution versions of maps, plans and drawings	02/07/2021	V	Rule 9/17 Letter
6.	Invitation to Preliminary Meeting Part 1 and 2	09/07/2021	V	Rule 6 Letter
7.	Notification of Hearings on 18-19 August 2021	09/07/2021	X	Superseded by PD 17 in Rule 8 letter
8.	Nominations of sites for ASI by Procedural Deadline A, 3 August 2021	09/07/2021	V	Rule 6 Letter
9.	Request for Applicant's proposed itinerary for the ASI by Deadline 1 – 31 August 2021	09/07/2021	V	Rule 6 Letter
10.	Requests for a CA Hearing by Procedural Deadline A, 3 August 2021	09/07/2021	V	Rule 6 Letter
11.	Request for a further Open Floor Hearing (beyond those arranged for 19 August 2021), by Deadline 1, 31 August 2021	09/07/2021	٧	Rule 6 Letter
12.	Request to submit Written Representations in line with Rule 10 by Deadline 1, 31 August 2021	09/07/2021	٧	Rule 6 Letter
13.	Request for updates to the dDCO and CA schedule by the Applicant to	09/07/2021	V	Rule 6 Letter

Proc	edural Decision	Date Issued	Status	Notes
	be provided at specified times and in a certain format			
14.	Responses to the ExA's WQ1 to be submitted after the Examination starts and by Deadline 1, 31 August 2021	09/07/2021	٧	Rule 6 Letter
	Issue of Advance Copy of WQ1	21/07/2021	V	WQ1 Advance copy
	Formal issue of WQ1	20/08/2021	√	WQ1 formal issue
15.	Request for the submission of annotated plans to illustrate requested locations for ASI by Procedural Deadline B	10/08/2021	V	Preliminary Meeting Part 1
16.	Notification of the Examination status of EWR Company Limited as an 'other person'	10/08/2021	V	Preliminary Meeting Part 1
17.	Change to Hearings schedule - cancellation of OFH2 in the evening of Thursday 19 August 2021	18/08/2021	V	Preliminary Meeting Part 2, and Rule 8 Letter
18.	Notification of Hearings and ASI from 21-24 September 2021	18/08/2021	V	Preliminary Meeting Part 2, and Rule 8 Letter
19.	Publication of the Examination Timetable	20/08/2021	V	Rule 8 Letter
20.	Notification of the ExA's preference for a one-day ASI and long list of priorities from the nominated sites	20/08/2021	V	Rule 8 Letter
21.	Request for LIRs from Host Authorities by Deadline 2, 8 September 2021	20/08/2021	V	Rule 8 Letter
22.	Post Hearing Action List for parties to respond by Deadlines as indicated	20/08/2021	V	Rule 8 Letter
23.	Cancellation of Reserve Hearing Day	24/08/2021	V	NI Website banner
24.	The ExA accepted the withdrawal of the Woodland Trust's representation to the examination	08/09/2021	V	AS-012
25.	The ExA published its ASI itinerary	15/09/2021	V	NI Website banner
26.	Cancellation of Reserve Hearing Day	29/09/2021	V	NI Website banner

Proce	edural Decision	Date Issued	Status	Notes
27.	Accept the withdrawal of Network Rail Infrastructure Limited's representation to the examination	04/10/2021	V	AS-014
28.	The ExA Issued WQ2	15/10/2021	V	WQ2 Formal Issue
29.	Notification for 30 November – 2 December 2021 Hearings	19/10/2021	V	Rule 13 letter
30.	Confirmation from the ExA of the date of CAH2, in light of minor error on the Notification letter	21/10/2021	V	NI Website banner
31.	Cancellation of Reserve Hearing Day	03/12/2021	V	NI Website banner
32.	Change to the Examination Timetable to create a new Deadline 7 on Thursday 6 January 2022	09/12/2021	٧	Rule 8(3), S89 and R17 letter to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain and other parties
33.	Notification of ExA's intention to treat specified parties as Affected Persons / Interested Parties	09/12/2021	٧	Rule 8(3), S89 and R17 letter to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain and other parties
34.	Notification for specified parties to request a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing and/ or an Open Floor Hearing	09/12/2021	٧	Rule 8(3), S89 and R17 letter to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain and other parties
35.	Request for further information from Mr and Mrs Chamberlain and other relevant parties	09/12/2021	٧	Rule 8(3), S89 and R17 letter to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain and other parties
36.	Request for further information from Mr Baron and other relevant parties	09/12/2021	V	Rule 17 letter to Mr Baron and other relevant parties